



City of Albuquerque

Office of Equity & Inclusion

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Human Rights Board

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Members Present

- Jack Champagne, Chair
- Cassandra Porter
- Killian McDonald
- Sara Samani (via Zoom)
- Benjamin Tobias

Members Not Present

- Leticia Galvez-Trujillo, Vice Chair

Members of the Public

City Staff Present

- Gabriela Marques, OCR Manager

MINUTES

- I. **Call to order.**
 - a. The Human Rights Board Meeting of August 13, 2026, was called to order by Chair Champagne at 5:05 pm. Introductions were done by all present.
- II. **Review and approval of agenda for August 13, 2026.**
 - a. Chair Champagne then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member McDonald seconded. Motion approved 5-0.
- III. **Review and approval of minutes from July 16, 2026.**
 - a. Chair Champagne then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Member McDonald seconded. Motion approved 5-0.
- IV. **Discussion of the proposal added protected category to the Albuquerque Human Rights Ordinance.**

The Board consulted on its approach to the advisory report being prepared for City Councilors to review. This work aligns with its existing powers and duties under the Human Rights Ordinance, specifically:

- **(F)** Provide review of all existing and proposed ordinances and policies which relate to the objectives of this article.
- **(G)** Work with governmental agencies, including the New Mexico Human Rights Commission, and with community organizations to carry out the purposes of this article.
- **(H)** Make recommendations to the City Council based upon its findings concerning problems occasioned by prejudice and discrimination in all fields of human relations, and recommend corrective action to aid in carrying out the purposes of this article.

It was discussed that this proposal reflects a minority trend nationally; more common practice is to extend family relationship definitions rather than create new protected categories. This goal is a

multigenerational approach — not limited to polyamorous relationships — covering grandparents raising children, multi-partner households, and related housing/family issues. The project will review the existing protected category to determine which definitions would be expanded, or combine with family status, similar to the approaches reported in place in Chicago and New York. The Board discussed building a body of evidence (testimony and stories) to support the case for expansion, including preparing for future/anticipated cases.

Action Items

- Member McDonald will finalize the report and PowerPoint presentation due at the January 2027 Human Rights Board meeting.
- Chair Champagne will draft survey questions to send to the community requesting personal stories.
- Member Samani will lead research on housing and disability issues for the Research, Investigation and Policy Subcommittee.
- Office of Civil Rights & Office of Equity and Inclusion will distribute the community survey; allow 1–2 months for responses.

V. Announcements

- a. For the next meeting presentation by Congressman Vasquez, it was requested more information regarding the federal government removing/deleting data and studies, including reports that the National Park Service removed historical documents, and that disability and DEI/equity-related websites and data have disappeared.
- b. Member Tobias will be unable to attend the August 20th meeting, as it is the first day of his master's program.
- c. Member Potter shared that the Department of Tourism has funding for events that can draw more tourists.

VI. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business before the Board, Chair Champagne moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.